

HISTORIAN

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OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

November 1997 -

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

The November meeting of the Hancock County Historical Society will be held at noon on Thursday, November 20 at the Kate Lobrano House, 108 Cue Street, Bay Saint Louis.

At this meeting, by secret ballot, five vacancies on the Board of Directors will be elected to office for a two year term ending in December 1999.

In accordance with the By-Laws of the corporation, a commission of non-board members has nominated the following members:

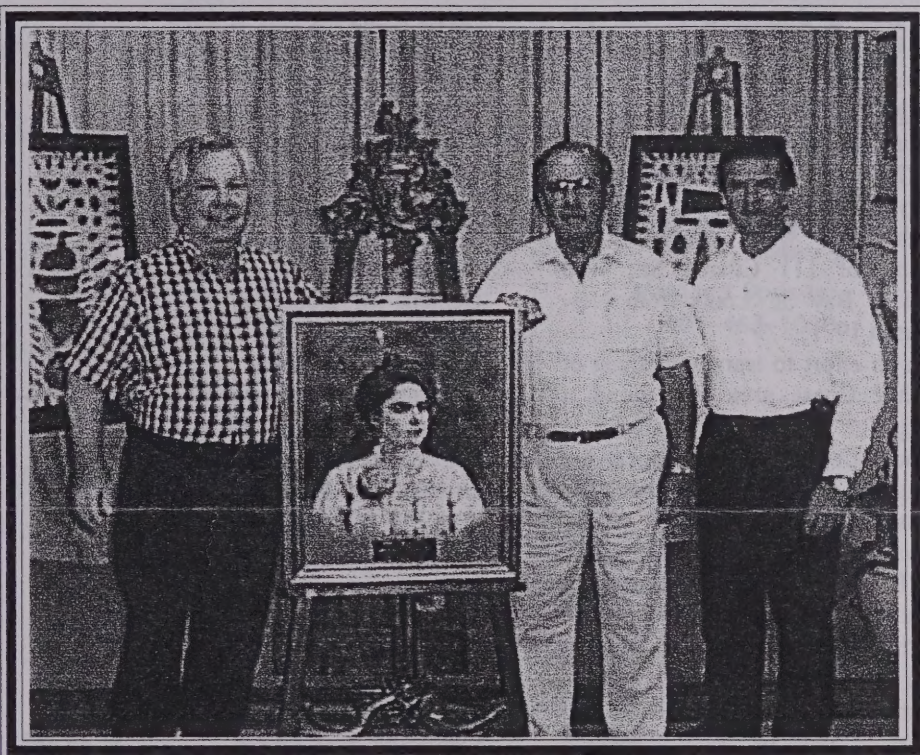
President, Charles Gray
2nd Vice President, Brehm Bell
Secretary, Cathy Bienvenutti
Publicity, Edith Bach
Historian, Jean Reeves

All five above members are incumbents and are eligible for re-election under the current By-Laws. Each has been contacted and has agreed to accept and serve another term if elected. Additional nominations will be taken from the floor on Thursday. Any member in good standing interested in filling one of these positions may be nominated by any other member in good standing and voting will be conducted following the taking of nominations. Installation of the new officers will be held at the December meeting.

Board members who still have one year remaining on their term office are:

1st Vice President, Ames Kergosien
1st Vice President, Ron Schexnayder
Treasurer, Meg Hilliker

The position of Correspondence Secretary is being eliminated and those duties have been assumed by Karen Flores, Executive Director of the Lobrano House since she is at the office during regular hours.



Charles Gray, Clayton J. Borne, Jr., Clayton J. Borne III

Members of the Borne, Lobrano and Warriner families, all grandchildren of Kate Lobrano, donated a portrait of her to the Hancock County Historical Society for display in the Kate Lobrano House. These heirs donated her home to the society on November 9th, 1988.

Mrs. Lobrano was born in Bay St. Louis in 1871. Her parents were Rebecca Jane Douglas of Charleston, South Carolina and George W. Maynard of St. Louis Missouri. Her father had been a Confederate veteran and was Town Marshall in Bay St. Louis when she was born. She married Frank Lobrano in 1891 and he and her father purchased the property on the corner of Main and Cue streets the following year.

Mr. Lobrano was elected Clerk of Court in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, his hometown, in 1915. and they maintained residences in both Bay Saint Louis and Pointe a la Hache for a period.

In 1917 Kate Lobrano was stricken with cancer and they sold the large home facing Main Street, retaining only the small house on the rear of the property. Kate died in January 1921.

For many years afterwards, the house was occupied by Kate's brother-in-law, Joe Taconi and his family until his death about 1980. During this period the house became well known for its abundant garden filled with

vegetables and flowers. Sunflowers the size of dinner plates are attributed to Mr. Taconi's expertise.

HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORY

We have been so busy recording county history that we have paid little attention to our own history. I recently ~~discovered a document in our file~~ which was given to us by Joe Pilet. It was written on HCHS stationery and was signed by Evelyn Griffith, HCHS Historian and dated August 3, 1976.

"The organization of the Hancock County Historical Society was the brainchild of Mrs. Margaret M. Gibbons, of 111 Citizen St., who moved to Bay St. Louis from New Orleans in 1971.

"In an effort to learn something of the Gulf Coast area she found a shortage of documented material in Hancock County. She wrote the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in Jackson, Ms. for advice. Then contacted Evelyn Griffith (Mrs. Lloyd B.), Prim Hilliker (Mrs. Wm. P.) and Sally Kimbrough (Mrs. Hunter).

"The first important meeting was held in the guest house of Mr. and Mrs. William P. Hilliker, of 1501 Dunbar Avenue on July 14, 1974. Present were Mrs. Margaret Gibbons, Mrs. Prim Hilliker, Mrs. Marguerite Powell, Mr. Norton Haas Sr. Civic leader, Mrs. Sylvia McComiskey of the Chamber of Commerce, Mrs. Sally Kimbrough artist, and free lance writer Mrs. Polly Mazarakis. Mr. Kenneth Hode from the Gulf Regional Planning Commission talked and advised them on how to plan and organize the project. Temporary officers were selected as follows:

President - Norton Haas Sr.
Vice Pres. - Louis Fernandez Jr., prehistory
Vice Pres. - Ames Kergosien, history
Secretary - Sylvia McComiskey
Treasurer - Peggy Gibbons
Membership - Prim Hilliker
Historian - Evelyn Griffith

"A Charter of Incorporation was

issued February 28, 1975, the incorporators being Norton Haas Sr., Ames Kergosien, Louis Fernandez, Jr., Margaret M. Gibbons and Sylvia McComiskey. A Constitution, By-Laws and purpose of the organization were drawn up and adopted Feb. 13, 1975.

Eventually we hope to obtain a building which can serve as headquarters and a Historic museum. Signed, Evelyn Reis Griffith"

Charter members, July 1, 1975

Authenreith, Mr. & Mrs. J. Robert
Boudreaux, Mrs. Lucille
Boudreaux, Mr. Jerome
Clark, Mrs. Evelyn R.
Crawford, Mrs. Laura
Dantagnan, Mrs. Edith D.
Delph, Mrs. O'Leah M.
Dorman, Mr. Ralph
Demetz, Mr. Donald J.
Duke, Mrs. Elda
Fernandez, Mr. Louis
Gibbons, Mrs. Margaret M.
Gibbons, Mr. Elmore M.
Glover, Mr & Mrs. Harry C.
Griffith, Mrs. Lloyd B.
Haas, Mr. Norton Sr.
Heitzman, Jr., Jerry
Hersey, Mrs. Emma
Hilliker, Mrs. Wm. P.
Hille, Mrs. Irene
Kimbrough, Mrs. Hunter S.
Kingston, Mrs. Nola
Lambright, Mrs. Grace
McComiskey, Mrs. Jack
McMillan, Mrs. Enola
McKinney, D. Madison
Pilet, Mrs. Joe W.
Warner, Mrs. Joyce M.
Weston, Mr. & Mrs. Horatio
Williams, Mrs. Jeanne D.
Young, Mrs. Teresa

Additional members joining July 8, 1976:

Beyer, Miss Alberta
Frank, Mrs. Marcia C.
San Fillipo, Mrs. Ursula
Tomesick, Mrs. Gerald A.

HALLOWEEN TOUR

The tour of Cedar Rest Cemetery on Halloween night exceed all previous tours in numbers and enthusiasm.

CHAIR DONATED

Bill Frisbie brought us a delightful piece of Hancock County history last week: the judges' chair from the courtroom of the county courthouse. The chair has an oak frame and still retains its original leather upholstery, both in excellent condition. Thank you Bill.

NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Callender, Bay St. Louis
John Callender, Bay St. Louis
Matthew Matulich, Bay St. Louis
Elizabeth Waterman, Bay St. Louis
John Waterman, Bay St. Louis
Charles A. Breath IV, Bay St. Louis

THANKS TO COOKIEMAKERS

Baking cookies and cup cakes is an art form in Bay Saint Louis, as was proved by so many who brought them for our Halloween party. They were so delicious that it took great strength of character to share them with the guests. Also the amount of candy provided was very generous and was certainly appreciated by the children (also).

Thank you, gentle hostesses who ladled punch and and tireless guides who lead the way through the dark.

THE

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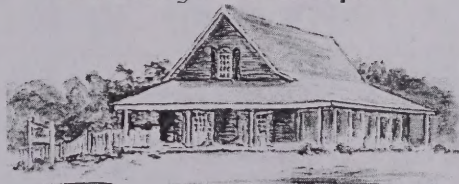
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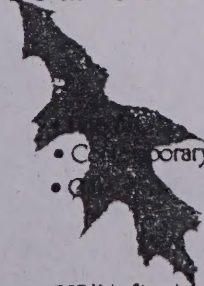


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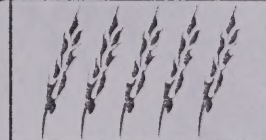
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